

YESTERDAY

Yesterday was September 19, 1987...
Yesterday was not a good day,
I didn't feel well at all...
I've never seen the face of death,
Yesterday I met him...
Yesterday I was diagnosed with AIDS...

This will be the story of another who was mauled by a deadly disease, maybe I'll win, but it's not likely I will. I'll fight, I'll kick, I'll scream, whatever it takes, but I won't run. It's spooky, I'm scared...

I've lived, I've learned, made mistakes, made decisions, cried, laughed, recieved and given. I've loved and been loved. Now is the time to learn to die. We all go thru it, some of us not knowing when it will happen, some of us do... What does one, or rather where does one begin when he knows that his time is running against the deadliest clock in the world? Pray, I guess...I'm not thru with this world yet and I hope it's not thru with me. There's so much to remember... so much to relay. I guess the time is now. As they say, "There's no better time than the present."

I've just come down with my first case of pnumisistis pneumonia, the first step which clarifies an HIV carrier into the wonderful world of AIDS. I'm no longer considered just a carrier or an ARC patient. Just like the doc told me yesterday..."This is the first step to AIDS"...like I've been promoted. Hey-great doc, thanks a bunch, let's celebrate...Now I can have the miracle drugs, he says. AZT, tests, will they work? Will they shorten my life? Do I try the drugs or let this thing run its course and get the most of the time that I have left? Who knows, I may be writing this 5 years from today...

Let's start with the people, because it's the people that keep this world of ours alive... the people of the Shanti Foundation. The understanding and concern of a group of people, coming together to help and teach others of the things which we ourselves cannot answer, to make things easier to deal with and understand, to never have that feeling of living alone in darkness...Just to know someone still cares...


Brian J. McKee
PWA, Summer of '87